

Message Text

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO OECD PARIS FROM
STRASBOURG MARCH 23:

QUOTE UNCLAS STRASBOURG 73

OECD - FOR CARL WAIT

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, COE, OECD.

SUBJECT: PRESENT STATUS OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE WORK ON
TRANSFRONTIER DATA FLOWS.

REF: A) STATE 38445 B) OECD PARIS 5447 C) MOHLER/WAIT TELECON
OF 3/18/77

1. IN LIGHT OF DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE) CONCERNING THAT FORUM'S WORK
TOWARD AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON TRANSFRONTIER DATA FLOWS
(REFTEL - A), CONSULATE HAS INITIATED PERIODIC DISCUSSIONS WITH
COE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE IN THIS AREA IN ORDER TO BETTER
MONITOR THEIR EFFORTS.

2. VICE CONSUL MOHLER MET WITH DR. GIOVANNI BUQUICCHIO OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 068006

COE STAFF ON MARCH 21 TO DISCUSS COE PARTICIPATION IN THE
UPCOMING OECD SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSFRONTIER DATA FLOWS WHICH IS
SCHEDULED IN VIENNA IN SEPTEMBER. BUQUICCHIO WHO WORKS UNDER
FRITZ HONDIUS, THE KEY COE OFFICIAL ON THIS ISSUE, SAID
THE PRECISE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE COE PRESENTATION AT THE
OECD SYMPOSIUM HAS STILL NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. IT WOULD DEPEND,
HE EXPLAINED, ON SEVERAL FACTORS, INCLUDING THE RESULTS OF THE

UPCOMING COE WORKING GROUP ON MEDICAL DATA BANKS IN MAY AND THE SECOND MEETING OF THE COE DRAFTING GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON DATA PROTECTION IN JUNE. THE COUNCIL HAD WELCOMED THE USEFUL PARTICIPATION OF CARL WAIT (OECD) AS U.S. OBSERVER AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING AND WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER HIS SUGGESTION WITH REGARD TO A COE PRESENTATION DURING ITS PREPARATIONS FOR THE SYMPOSIUM (REFTEL - B). MOHLER TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE U.S. VIEW OF SYMPOSIUM WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED BY WAIT IN FEBRUARY. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT COE WAS PLANNING TO OFFER A DRAFT CONVENTION FOR DISCUSSION DURING SYMPOSIUM. BUQUICCHIO ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE COE PLANNED TO HAVE PLENARY MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE SYMPOSIUM.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO THE REWORKING OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE DRAFTING GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, BUQUICCHIO SAID THAT THE DRAFT CIRCULATED AT THAT TIME, HAD BEEN AN EARLY EFFORT AND THAT WORK WAS UNDERWAY TO REDRAFT IT IN ORDER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS REACTIONS EXPRESSED. HE HOPED THAT A NEW, STILL VERY PRELIMINARY DRAFT WOULD BE READY FOR DISCUSSION AT THE JUNE DRAFTING GROUP MEETING.

4. BUQUICCHIO MADE A POINT OF EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE STRONG U.S. INTEREST SHOWN THUS FAR IN THE COE WORK IN THIS AREA SINCE IT WAS CLEAR THAT ANY CONVENTION WHICH DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF NON EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LIKE THE U.S. AND CANADA WHOSE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND MANUFACTURING POSITION IN THE FIELD OF DATA SYSTEMS WAS SO SIGNIFICANT, WOULD BE OF

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 068006

LITTLE USE. THUS, HE CONTINUED, THE COUNCIL LOOKS FORWARD TO PLAYING HOST TO U.S. OBSERVERS AT FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND IS VERY ANXIOUS TO HEAR THEIR IDEAS.

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